

# BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bedford, Virginia

## 2011 Annual Report







## CHIEF'S MESSAGE



**L. Brad Creasy**  
**Chief of Department**

The annual report highlights many of the emergency and non-emergency activities that the Fire Department was involved with in 2011. As we move into 2012, the Fire Department will continue to provide a high level of service to the community in the most efficient manner, with the safety of the residents in the community as well as the safety of the firefighters as our highest priority.

The Bedford Fire Department responded to 821 calls for emergency and non-emergency assistance during 2011, which is a 9% decrease from 2010. That decrease was in part a result of the addition of a career staffed ambulance on nights and weekends at the Bedford Life Saving Crew which in return led to less requests for our First Responder program. The First Responder program continues to be a successful program that provides fast patient care from Fire Department Paramedics and EMT's when an ambulance is not available from the immediate area.

I am very proud of our firefighters and the officers that lead these men and women each and every day. Our personnel devote countless hours each year to obtain certifications and re-certifications in order to provide the most professional and proficient service possible. Other departments, both local and across the state, frequently develop operational programs and guidelines based on progressive ideas already implemented by the Bedford Fire Department.

For those who have an opportunity to read this report I hope it provides a glimpse into the daily operations of our department. It is always an honor and privilege to open the doors of our organization to you. We are an exemplary organization, thanks to the support of the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and citizens of Bedford which we serve.

Respectfully I am,

**L. Brad Creasy**  
**Chief of Department**

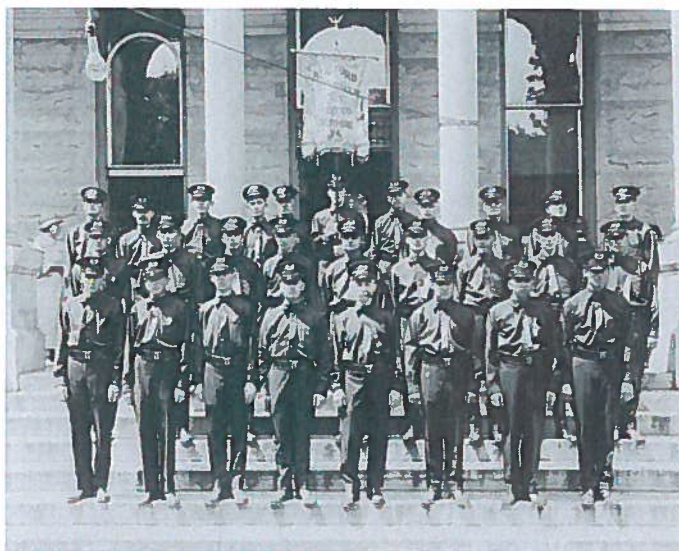


# HISTORY

*The need for organized fire protection in the then Town of Liberty became most evident on the morning of October 12, 1884 when a fire began in a store operated by J.N. Early on the southeast corner of Bridge Street and Railroad Avenue. When the fire was discovered in the early morning hours very little could be done, as there was no organized fire department and a meager water supply. When daylight came, only two buildings were left standing, and the scene was one of desolation. In the years to follow several important events contributed to the growth of this small town. When owners began rebuilding their downtown businesses they used more permanent materials such as brick and heavy timber. The town also began installing a municipal water supply and had installed twenty-five fire hydrants by 1886. Area business men met in the fall of 1887 to discuss the need for an organized fire company to protect area businesses and homes. Several months later in early 1888, the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department was organized with a membership of twenty-five volunteer firemen; most of whom were downtown merchant owners.*

*Originally located on Court Street near the intersection of East Main Street, the Town of Bedford constructed a new firehouse for the fire department on West Depot Street in 1927. To accommodate larger apparatus and a growing membership, the City of Bedford built the current fire station at 315 Bedford Avenue in 1974.*

*Today, the Bedford Fire Department is responsible for more than just protecting life and property from the ravages of fire through fire suppression. It also provides a broad range of services that include emergency medical services, hazardous material responses, special and technical rescue, and fire prevention through public education.*



**Bedford Volunteer Fire Company, 1927**



**West Depot Street Station, 1941**

## B.F.D. TODAY

**TOTAL SERVICE AREA: 182 square miles**

**TOTAL SERVICE POPULATION: 22,300**

**ACTIVE FIRE STATIONS: 1**

**APPARATUS FLEET: 10**

**ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS: 45**





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- January 8, 2011– Nineteen BFD officers and firefighters attended the BCoFR Tactics and Safety Symposium.
- February 1, 2011– Engine 1 responded to 1121 East Lynchburg Salem Turnpike for the report of a subject not breathing. E-1's two ALS providers performed CPR and using an AED shocked the subject twice before a medic unit arrived. The patient was resuscitated and is alive and well today because of their quick response and actions. The four firefighters were awarded the departments Life Saving Award.
- February 10, 2011 1200hrs– While operating on a house fire at 2548 Bethesda Road, BFD FF/EMT John Moore fell from an attic and into the basement when the attic access ladder he was standing on collapsed. A "Mayday" was transmitted and firefighters quickly assisted him from the basement to the exterior where paramedics were waiting. He was released from the hospital later that day.
- February 10, 2011 1902hrs– BFD dispatched to Independence Blvd for reports of a head-on MVC. Engine 1 arrived at 1906hrs to find three vehicles involved with heavy damage. Two patients had to be extricated from two separate vehicles. Five people were seriously injured, one fatally.
- March 25, 2011– A new brush truck that was purchased through donations and DFP Aid to Localities funding was placed in service. The 1989 Ford truck that the new unit replaced was re-assigned as Support 1 and is now used to perform hydrant maintenance.
- July 7, 2011 2018hrs– BFD was dispatched to 1080 Rocky Ford Rd for a vehicle on fire. E-1 arrived at 2025hrs to find a car fully involved approximately 250 feet behind a residence. A neighbor had pulled the unconscious driver from the car before E-1's arrival. The driver suffered burns to his airway and was flown to RMH. At the request of the Fire Department, the neighbor was recognized at the Board of Supervisors meeting in August.
- August 15, 2011– BFD responded to 1497 Haven Heights Drive for a house fire that had been set by its owner who refused to come out and surrender to authorities. BFD Firefighter/Paramedic Curtis Marshall located the unconscious victim in the basement and pulled him outside to safety. The victim was flown to RMH with burns to the airway and was released to authorities five days later.
- September 12, 2011 1352hrs– BFD responded to the 1500 block of West Lynchburg Salem Turnpike for a man stuck in the bucket of a bucket truck. Ladder 1 arrived at 1357hrs, extended the aerial device 75 feet and brought the man down to safety.
- December 9, 2011 0123hrs– BFD responded to 1586 Patterson Mill Rd for a house fire with a person trapped. E-1 arrived at 0129hrs to find heavy fire showing from the second floor. The homes occupant was forced to jump from the second story before the fire departments arrival. He was flown to Wake Forest with burns to the airway and released four days later.



**New Brush Truck Operating on Grass Fire.**



**Horse Rescue at 4940 Big Island Highway.**



**Vehicle Accident at the Bedford County Courthouse.**



# 2010 to 2011 GOAL RESULTS

1. **Update training room seating and over head projector (firefighters from all twelve county fire departments train in this room throughout the year).**

Eighty new stackable chairs have been purchased and are now in use. This project was funded by both the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and the Bedford County Fire & Rescue Department.

2. **Replace Chief's vehicle with SUV.**

A 2011 Dodge Charger was purchased to replace the Chief's vehicle in August through CIP. This vehicle is outfitted with equipment that allows the Chief to effectively manage personnel on emergency scenes.

3. **Apply for Assistance to Firefighters Grant through FEMA to replace turnout gear and purchase needed thermal imaging camera.**

The Fire Department received notification from FEMA in early December that the grant for \$75,000 to purchase turnout gear and TIC will be granted in early January. This is a 90/10 matching grant.

4. **Update outdated bunk room restrooms in firehouse.**

Those individuals responsible for the maintenance of the fire station are currently examining different remodeling options that have been provided by contractors. Once a decision has been made, a contract for remodeling will go out to bid.

5. **Increase safety awareness on structural fires and begin monitoring for hydrogen cyanide.**

Nineteen officers and firefighters attended a tactics and safety symposium in January. Hydrogen Cyanide detectors were purchased and a SOG on their use was implemented.

6. **Re-Implement Work Detail Program that utilizes firefighters to perform truck maintenance and repairs.**

The Fire Departments budgeted compensation was cut in 2009-2010 and does not currently allow for the program to be re-instated. Traditionally, firefighters would work in pairs each week, two hours each night in order to properly maintain apparatus. On average, those who participated worked approximately 30 hours every six months.

6. **Form committee to research fleet reduction; specifically the tanker and reserve engine.**

The committee worked for several months to evaluate the need for a tanker and reserve engine. After much discussion and statistical analysis, the committee made its recommendation to the Chief. That recommendation includes keeping a reserve engine and reducing the fleet by selling Tanker 1.

7. **Add Advanced Life Support equipment; specifically drug boxes, to Engine 1 and Utility 1.**

A written request has been submitted to the Bedford County Fire and Rescue Department requesting to add drug boxes to Engine 1 and Utility 1 (First Responder units). The addition of drug boxes will allow ALS certified firefighters to administer life saving drugs when an ambulance is not immediately available. No response has yet been received.

8. **Add restroom facility to Bedford Area Fire Training Center on Orange Street that can be utilized by both Fire and Police.**

Several concrete buildings that are typically used at cell sites have been donated to the fire department and were delivered to the training site. In order to make these buildings operational as restrooms they will need to be set on a concrete pad with plumbing and their interiors outfitted with lavatories and commodes. Bedford County Fire & Rescue has agreed to pay for the needed site work in order to make these buildings operational. Work is slated to begin in the early spring.





# CERTIFICATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## FIREFIGHTER I

A 120-hour entry level course for new firefighters. Students will learn about fire behavior, building construction, personal protective equipment, fire suppression tactics, ground ladders, portable extinguishers, etc. A written test and practical evolutions must be passed successfully in order for student to obtain certificate.

***Certificates received by FF Stacey Wills, FF Brandon Crouch, and FF/EMT Steve McKinney***

## FIREFIGHTER II

A 40-hour course that is designed for the firefighter who is prepared to take more of a leadership role in the company. Students learn about leadership skills and more advanced fire ground techniques.

***Certificate received by FF Stacey Wills***

## HAZMAT OPERATIONS

A 16-hour course designed for hazardous materials fire responders. Classroom and practical training include properties of hazardous materials, containers, transportation hazards, and protective equipment.

***Certificates received by FF/EMT Steve McKinney, FF Brandon Crouch, and FF Stacey Wills***

## BASIC PUMP OPERATOR

A 16 hour course that teaches basic entry skills for operating fire apparatus pumps, including pump theory and pumping equipment.

***Certificates received by FF Chris Gardner, FF/EMT Ryan King, and FF/EMT Kenny Taggart,***

## DRIVER/OPERATOR-PUMPER

A 40-hour course with detailed instruction on the operation, maintenance and design of pumping fire apparatus.

***Certificates received by FF/PM Alex McKinney and FF/PM Curtis Marshall***

## DRIVER/OPERATOR-AERIAL

A 40-hour course with detailed instruction on the operation, maintenance, and design of aerial apparatus.

***Certificates received by FF/PM Alex McKinney, FF/PM John Gulatsi and FF/PM Steven Curry***

## FIRE OFFICER I

A 64-hour course that designed for new officers or officer candidates to learn basic skills such as communication, effective supervision and resource management.

***Certificate received by FF/EMT William Crumpacker***

## FIRE OFFICER IV

A 40-hour course designed to cover all elements of the NFPA standard. The following topics are covered: Organizational Structure, Human Resource Management, Administration, Planning, Budgeting, Community Awareness, Public Fire Education, Inspections, and Emergency Services Delivery.

***Certificate received by Chief Brad Creasy***

## LEADERSHIP II

12-hour course that provides the company officer with the basic leadership skills and tools needed to perform effectively in the fire service environment.

***Certificate received by FF/EMT Chad Baker***

## STRATEGY & TACTICS FOR THE INITIAL COMPANY OFFICER

16-hour course designed to meet the management needs of Company officers responsible for managing the operations of one or more companies during structural fire fighting operations.

***Certificates received by FF/PM John Gulatsi and FF/EMT Chad Baker***

## INSTRUCTOR I

32-hour course designed to train participants to organize and deliver basic firefighter programs.

***Certificate received by FF/PM Steve Curry and FF/PM Alex McKinney***

## INSTRUCTOR III

32-hour course designed to train participants on advanced techniques in constructing lesson plan development and develop training aids to support delivery.

***Certificate received by FF/PM Curtis Marshall***

## FIRE INVESTIGATOR-NFPA 1033

A 160 hour course designed teach fire investigators fire cause and origin, investigation techniques, documentation and interrogation techniques.

***Certificate received by FF/EMT Jason Overstreet***

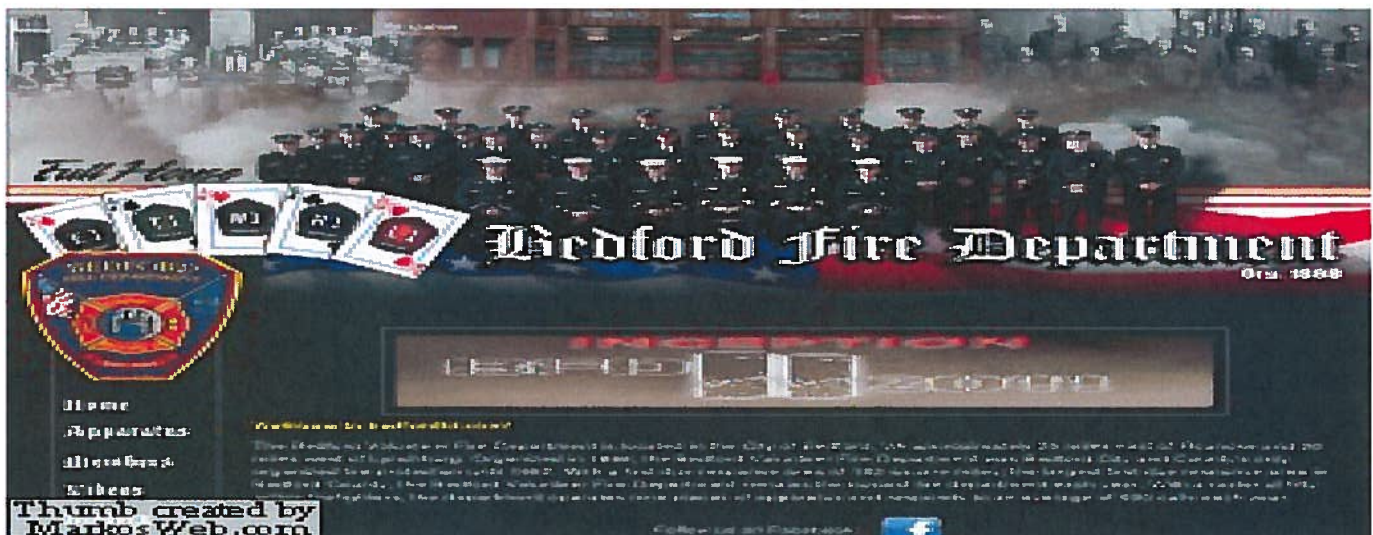


## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Fire Department continues to share current news and upcoming events with the community and local media agencies through Twitter, Facebook, and [www.bedfordfd.com](http://www.bedfordfd.com); the department's website. The department's website went online in 2003 and currently gets an average of 17,000 hits each month. Website visitors from around the world can read through incident narratives, see personnel profiles and apparatus pictures, and review information on ISO ratings, our smoke detector installation program, etc. We currently have over 100 followers on Twitter who track department activity through "Tweets", or activity updates. The latest addition to our social media outlet was the addition of a Bedford Fire Department facebook page in 2009. Currently there are 2,500 people who "Like" the department's page and follow department activity though Facebook.



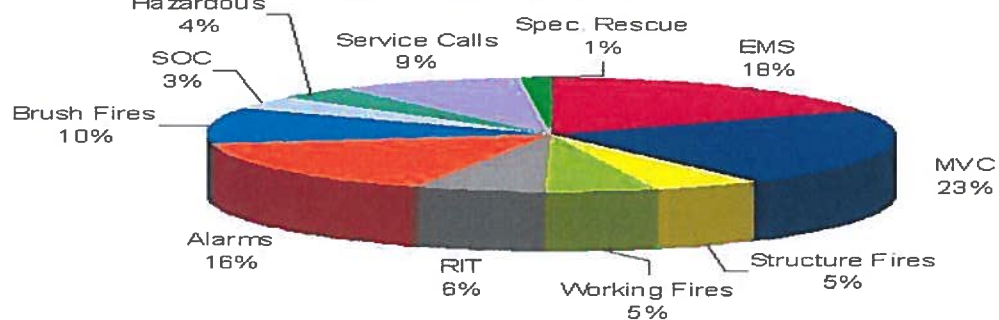
# facebook





# STATISTICS

**Bedford Fire Department Call Responses For 2011**



EMS	MVC	Structure Fires	Working Fires
RIT	Alarms	Brush Fires	SOC
Hazardous	Service Calls	Spec. Rescue	

**EMS-** Medical Response

**MVC-** Motor Vehicle Crashes

**Structure Fires-** Responses to possible fires

**Working Fires-** Requiring active suppression tactics

**RIT-** Rapid Intervention Team

**Hazardous-** HAZMAT, downed powerlines

**Alarms-** Automated Fire Alarms

**Brush Fire-** Outdoor fires, rubbish fires

**SOC-** Special Operations

**Service Calls-** Public education, training

**Spec. Rescue-** Water rescue, etc.

## 2011 Summary

- Total responses: 821
- Mutual Aid Given: 107
- Average Firefighters per call: 12
- Responses that required fire suppression: 127
- Responses that involved medical treatment: 211
- Total dollar loss: \$586,000
- Civilian fire related injuries or deaths: 0
- Firefighter Injuries: 4

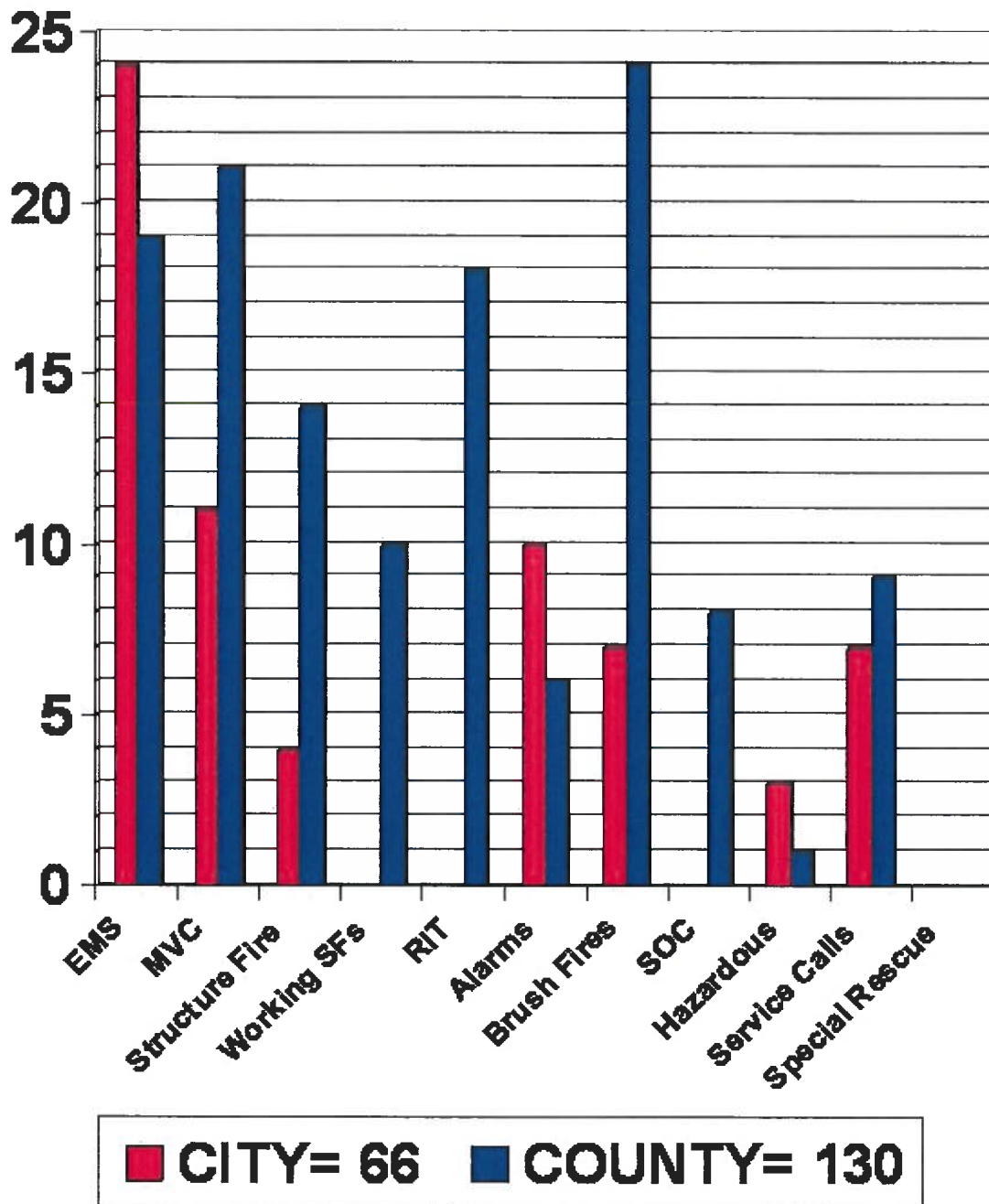


# Quarterly Statistics by Type of Incident





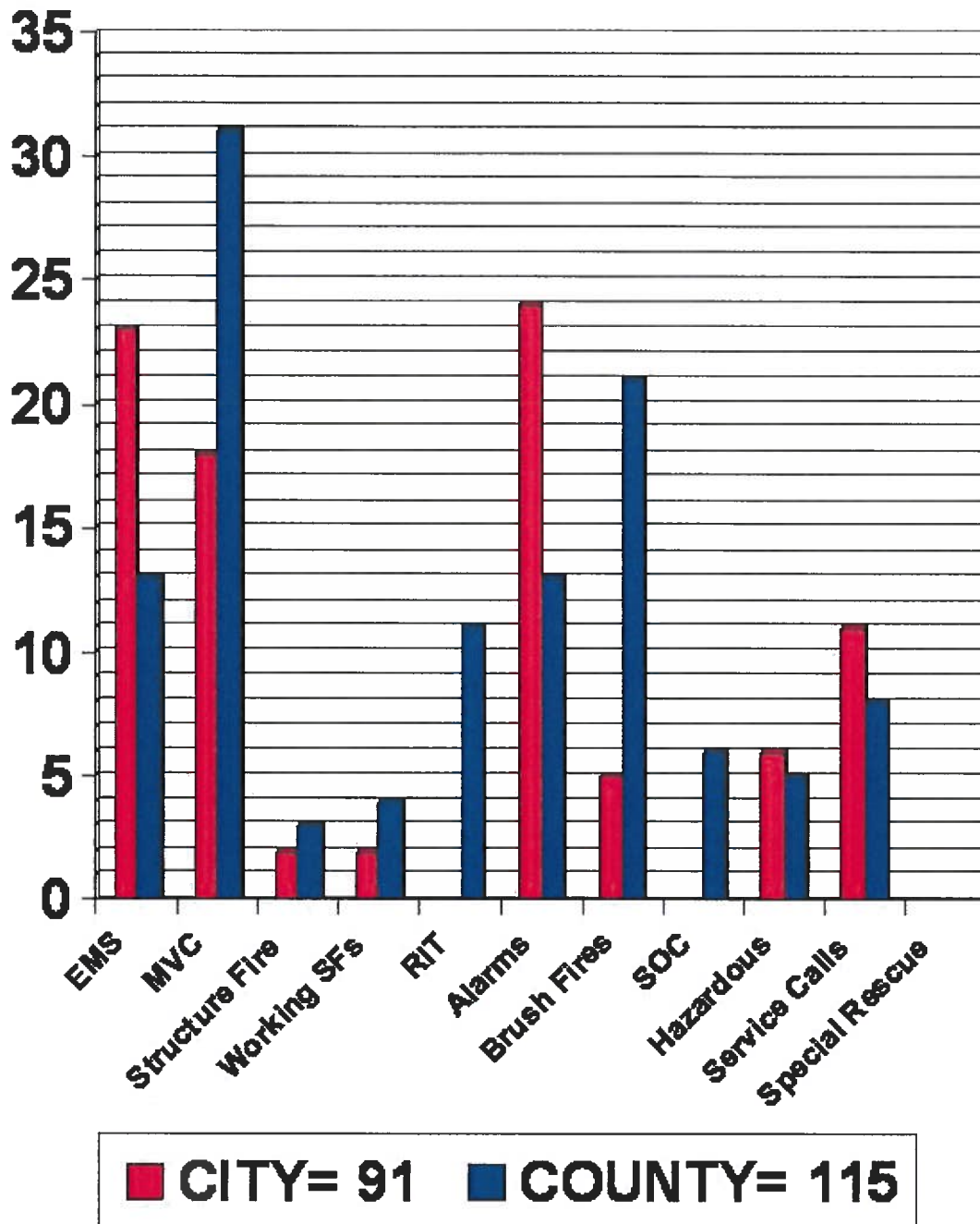
## FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS





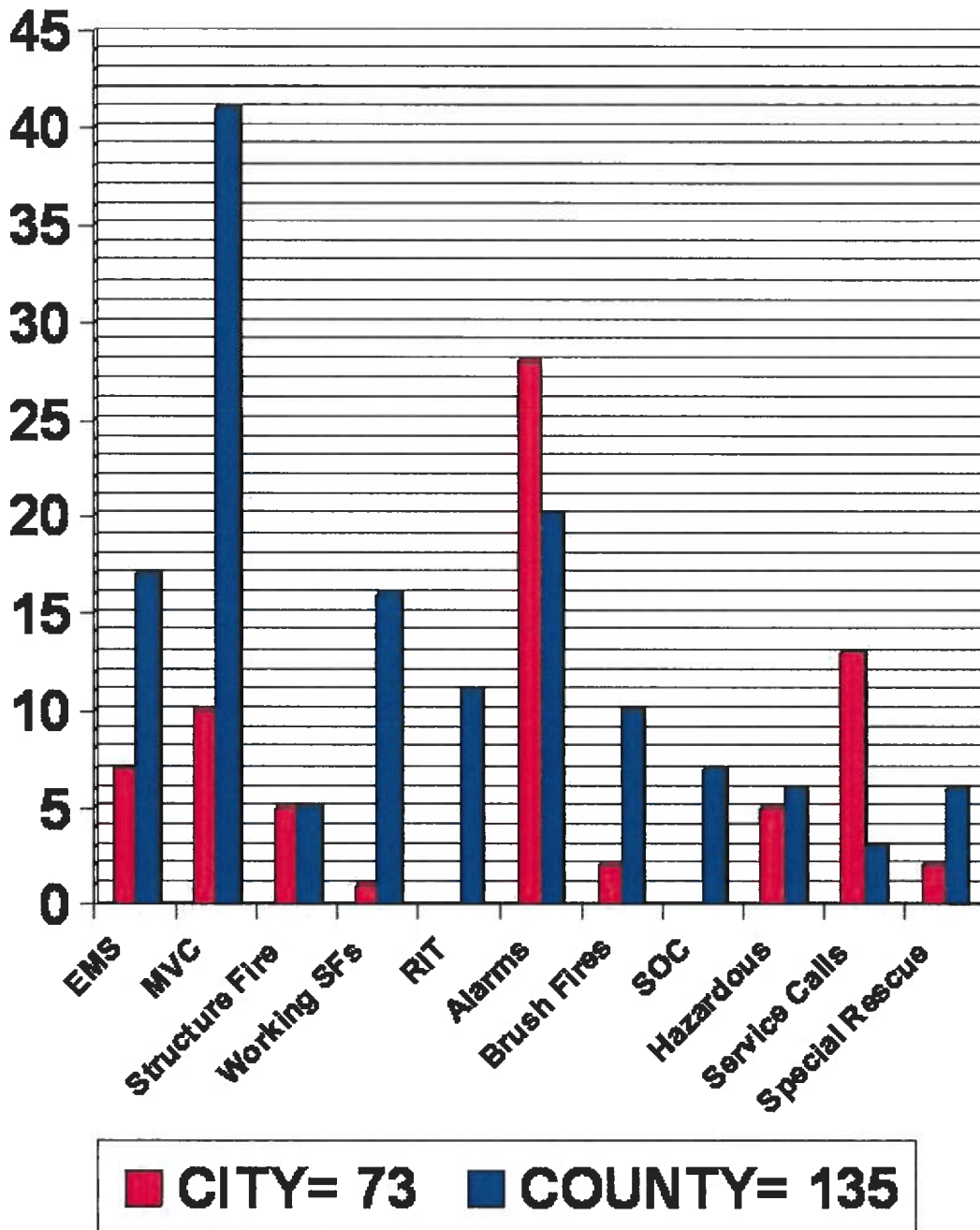


## SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS





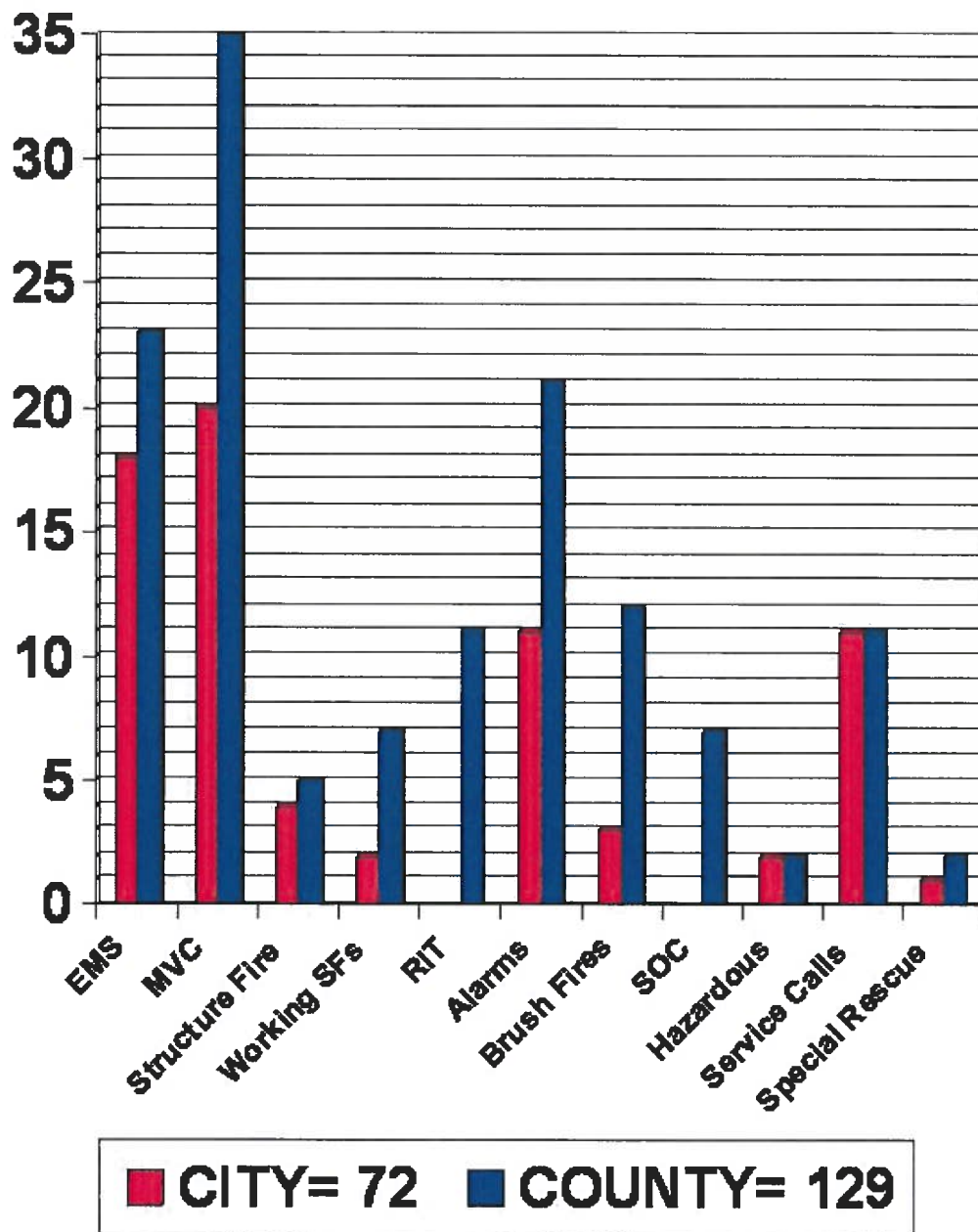
## THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS







## FOURTH QUARTER STATISTICS





# APPARATUS STATISTICS



## APPARATUS                      RESPONSES

Engine 1	465
Rescue 1	255
Ladder 1	92
Wagon 1	91
Utility 1	113
Brush 1	97
Tanker 1	29
Support 1	15